

ART. XXVI.—*Preliminary Notice of certain New Species
of Lizards from Central Australia.*

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The following contains a description of five new species and one new variety of lizards collected in Central Australia during the visit of the Horn Expedition. The full descriptions, accompanied by figures, together with a complete report, will be published in the volume dealing with the work of the Expedition.

Ebenavia horni, sp. nov.

Description.—Head long, depressed; snout rather obtuse, about as long as the distance between the eye and the ear-opening. Pupil vertical. Ear-opening small, round. Limbs short and slender. Tail depressed, constricted at the base. Digital expansions twice the diameter of the digit. Lamellæ under the fourth toe eight, separated from the expansions by rows of granules. Dorsal surfaces of expansions scaled as in *Phyllodactylus*. Upper surfaces of body covered with uniform small, oval scales; scales on the head round, smallest on the occiput, largest and flattest on the snout. Rostral very low, four-sided, four times as broad as high. Nostril pierced between first labial and three or four nasals; first nasal largest, separated from its fellows on the opposite side by a single equal scale, thus forming a line of three scales behind the rostral. Nine upper labials. Mental narrow, triangular, about as large as adjacent lower labials; latter nine in number. No special chin-shields, but the gular scales near the symphysis larger than those behind. Ventral scales smooth, tessellated, larger than dorsal. Tail with annuli of small smooth scales. *Colour*.—Olive-brown above, with four longitudinal dark bands, two converging from the occiput to unite over the sacrum, and one on each side passing from the nostril through the eye and above the limbs. On the side another dark band from ear, just above the fore-limb to the

groin. Under surfaces brownish-grey with scattered brown dots. Tail brown above with lighter ocelli, each occupying about four scales; below with intermingled grey and brown scales.

DIMENSIONS.

Total length	...	...	55 mm.
Head	...	...	10 „
Width of head	...	...	5 „
Body	...	...	23 „
Fore-limb	...	...	9 „
Hind-limb	...	...	12 „
Tail	...	...	22 „

Since Mr. Boulenger has withdrawn his species *E. boettgeri*, (Cat., vol. iii., p. 482), only one *Ebenavia* has been previously recognised, and that only from Madagascar. In general outline the present species closely agrees with Mr. Boulenger's figure (Cat., vol. i., pl. viii., fig. 1), and the colour bands agree fairly with those of his Madagascar specimen. The chief point of distinction in the Australian form is the entire absence of anything like longitudinal series of large tubercles.

The nearest allies to the clawless genus *Ebenavia* are met with in the genus *Phyllodactylus*. Species of *Phyllodactylus* occur in South Africa and Madagascar. Indeed, only the most trivial differences can be found between *P. porphyreus*, Daud., from these localities, and the widely distributed Australian form *P. marmoratus*, Gray.

We have associated the name of Mr. Horn with this interesting lizard.

Tympanocryptis tetraporophora, sp. nov.

Nostril nearer to eye than to tip of snout; upper head scales larger and less strongly keeled than in *T. lineata*, Peters, large on the occiput. Dorsal scales strongly keeled, the enlarged ones mucronate. *Colour*.—Light brown above or reddish, with darker more or less indistinct cross bands on the body; tail and limbs with dark bars. Resembling *T. cephalus*, Günth., in colouring above, and *T. lineata* on ventral surfaces; but in one of the two specimens there is a narrow white vertebral line recalling that of *T. lineata*.

The remarkable feature of these specimens is that there are in addition to the two anal pores, two femoral pores, one on each limb. This character will involve a modification in the definition of the genus.

Apart from the presence of these pores, *T. tetraporophora* serves to connect the two previously described species of the genus.

DIMENSIONS.

Total length	...	...	130 mm.
Head	...	...	17 "
Width of head	...	...	13 "
Body	...	...	35 "
Fore-limb	...	...	28 "
Hind-limb	...	...	40 "
Tail	...	...	78 "

Varanus gilleni, sp. nov.

Description.—Snout slightly projecting, depressed at the end, measuring rather less than the distance from the anterior angle of the eye to the ear; canthus rostralis indistinct. Nostril broadly oval, as in *V. punctatus*, *acanthurus*, etc., directed backwards and outwards, slightly nearer the end of the snout than the anterior angle of the eye. Limbs and digits moderate, latter strongly compressed. Tail round, flattened ventrally, depressed at the base, not keeled. Head covered with flat granular scales, unequal in size, largest between the orbits, smallest on the supraocular region and about the nostrils. Scales of upper surfaces small, oval, convex, rather longer than broad, each scale on the body and limbs—except those on the preaxial surface of the carpus and to a less extent the tarsus—surrounded by a conspicuous ring of small granules. About eight rows of flat smooth subequal genal scales. Gular scales similar to abdominal, but more convex. Abdominal scales smooth, in eighty-five to ninety transverse rows between gular fold and groin. Caudal scales all tricarinate, the central keel strongest, raised posteriorly almost mucronate. Pineal cornea distinct, inconspicuous. *Colour.*—Light brown above, with darker spots and streaks, arranged more or less plainly in longitudinal series or continuous

lines on the head and the distal three-fourths of the tail, and in transverse series or bands across the neck, trunk, and proximal fourth of the tail. The markings on the trunk of a dull red. Six narrow longitudinal bands on the head and front part of the neck, on each side one commencing behind the ear and another more continuous along the temporal region commencing behind the eye, the two median dorsal bands anastomosing with one another and with the temporal streak. Lips with vertical streaks. Under surfaces cream coloured, chin dark spotted.

DIMENSIONS.

Total length	...	...	..	...	341 mm.
From tip of snout to gular fold	...			...	51 "
From gular fold to vent	...		...	...	93 "
Max. width of head	...	...	...	...	17 "
Fore-limb	...	...	...	...	38 "
Hind-limb	...	...	...	...	46 "
Tail	...	...	...	...	197 "

Named after F. J. Gillen, Esq., the chief officer of the Alice Springs Telegraph Station.

Varanus eremius, sp. nov.

Description.—Snout depressed at the end, measuring less than the distance from the anterior border of the orbit to the ear, canthus rostralis sharp. Nostril round, nearer the end of the snout than the orbit. Digits moderate. Tail round, depressed at the base, compressed posteriorly. Head scales small subequal, supraocular scales very small. Scales of the upper surfaces small, elongate, keeled. Abdominal scales smooth, in seventy to seventy-five transverse rows, caudal scales strongly keeled, the caudal keel with a low doubly-toothed crest. Pineal cornea conspicuous. *Colour*.—Rusty-brown above, with small lighter and darker spots, a dark narrow curved line across the back of the head, and another from above the ear passing through the orbit, lower eye-lid with a large brownish-grey spot, sides greyish, a white streak from the ear to the fore-limb. Tail greyish with four—six on the anterior half—black streaks. Lower surfaces white, throat mottled with grey.

DIMENSIONS.

Total length	...	...	...	...	300 mm.
From tip of snout to gular fold	...			...	39 „
From gular fold to vent	...	...		...	73 „
Max. width of head	...			...	13 „
Fore-limb	...	...	...	...	32 „
Hind-limb	...	...	...	...	46 „
Tail	...	...	...	...	188 „

Rhodona tetradactyla, sp. nov.

Description.—Body much elongate, limbs weak, tetradactyle, the distance between the end of the snout and the fore-limb is contained twice to twice and a half in the distance between axilla and groin. Snout moderate, obtusely conical. Lower eye-lid with a transparent disk. Nostril pierced in a large nasal which is in contact with its fellow; frontonasal large, and forming a broad straight suture with the frontal; præfrontals small and widely separated; frontal broader than the supraocular region, longer than the frontoparietals and interparietal together, in contact with the first and second supraoculars; four supraoculars, six supraciliaries; frontoparietals and interparietal distinct, subequal; two or three pairs of nuchals. Ear-opening minute, about the size of the nostril. Twenty smooth scales round the middle of the body, dorsals largest. A pair of enlarged præanals. The length of the hind-limb equals the distance between the eye and the fore-limb; toes slender, third about twice the length of second, which is twice as long as the first, subdigital lamella smooth, about fourteen under the third toe. Tail slightly longer than head and body. *Colour.*—Greyish above, with four regular series of black dots, almost confluent into lines along the back, sides darker, a longitudinal blackish lateral band from snout to tail, the lower edge of which is scarcely distinct from the darker ground colour on the sides; tail brownish, covered with irregular blackish dots; lower surfaces greyish or brownish with a darker colour around the margin of each scale.

DIMENSIONS.

Total length	...	...	77 mm.
Head	...	...	5 "
Width of head	...	...	3 "
Body	...	...	30 "
Fore-limb	...	...	4 "
Hind-limb	...	...	8 "
Tail	...	...	42 "

Ablepharus lineo-ocellatus, D. and B.

Var. *ruficaudus*, var. nov.

Differs from the type as follows:—Body much depressed. Twenty-eight scales round the middle of the body. Nuchals nearly as large as parietals. *Colour*.—Upper surfaces greenish-black, with conspicuous longitudinal white band on either side of the back and head, converging in front to meet on the tip of the snout, and behind extending to base of tail. Tail and hind-limbs red. Under surfaces of body bluish-white, of tail reddish.
